

Further systematic notes on Mexican birds

by ALLAN R. PHILLIPS

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Euphonia gouldi loetscheri subsp. nov.

Description: Largest race known; ♂ averages slightly paler, duller cinnamon on belly than *E. g. gouldi* P. Sclater, 1857: "Guatemala".

Distribution: Southern Veracruz north and north-west of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Types: ♂♂♀, all in first basic plumage; Dos Amates, north-east of Catemaco, Veracruz, 14th November, 1962; 5th January and 14th August, 1965; Abraham Ramírez V.

Measurements of types: Wing 61, 62, 61; tail 35, 35, 32.5 mm.

Material examined: 1 ♂ 6 imm. ♂ 3 imm. ♀.

Remarks: (AMNH, CM, F, GMS, KANU, RTM, WF). This race may appropriately be named for Dr. Frederick William Loetscher, Jr., whose unpublished list has been the foundation of so much recent work on Veracruz birds. The difference in bill size pointed out by Wetmore (1943) is less susceptible of accurate measurement than are the wing and tail. As the Table shows, the small *praetermissa* (Peters) is not limited, as

TABLE

Measurements of *Euphonia gouldi* (excluding juveniles and dubiously labelled specimens)

Populations	♂♂		♀♀	
	(no.) wing	(no.) tail	(no.) wing	(no.) tail
Dos Amates, Veracruz	(7) 60.3–62.2	(7) 34–35	(3) 58.6–61	(3) 32–32.5
Eastern Veracruz and Isthmus of Tehuantepec	(8) 55.8–58.8	(8) 30.5–33.1 [+]	(7) 54.5–56.7	(7) 28–31.2
Solosuchiapa, northern Chiapas Laguna Ocotol and easternmost Chiapas, and Guatemala (unworn)	(5) 56.5–59.5	(5) 30.8–32.8	(3) 55.9, 56.5, 58.3	(3) 29.3, 29.8, 32.7
British Honduras (worn)	(12) 54.6–59	(12) 28.3–31.7	(5) 54.5–56.6	(5) 28–30.3
Nicaragua ¹	(6) 52.5–57.3	(6) 26–30.7	(2) 54.4, 57.7	(2) 27, 28.7
Costa Rica	(20) 51.7–56.4	(17) 24–28.5	(2) 52.5, 53	(2) 25 [+], 25.7
Panama ²	(2) 51.4, 53.5	(3) 26–26.4 (±)	(6) 52–53.4	(6) 23.8–26
			(1) 52.3	(3) 24.3–26

¹ Due to pressure of time, not all of the Nicaragua ♂♂ (AMNH) were measured; but care was taken to measure all the largest ♂♂.

² Most of the 3 ♂ 4 ♀ seen from Panama are badly worn; their wing measurements are here excluded. Possibly careless measuring of such birds accounts for current concepts of the limited range of *praetermissa*. The smallest Costa Rican birds listed here are *not* from adjacent, south-eastern Costa Rica, but from San Carlos, Río San Rafael (♀, tail 23.8, RTM) and Guanacaste (♂, wing 51.7, GMS).

commonly stated, to Panamá and southern Costa Rica, but extends over all of Costa Rica and, in less typical form, to the Nicaragua-Honduras border (Rio Coco=Wanks River). As to colour, the material seen from extremes of the range (British Honduras and the Pacific slope of Costa Rica) is insufficient to determine the constancy of the observable variations.

Euphonia hirundinacea Bonaparte, 1838.

I use this long-familiar name, since the name *Tanagra* Linné, 1764, overlooked for many years, and all of its unfortunate and confusing consequences are in process of repudiation by most zoologists (including the International Commission). A recent substitute name is *Tanagra laut* Bangs and Penard, 1919. The type (of both, of course) is a young male taken by Col. Velásquez on the Pacific slope of Guatemala. Griscom (1930 : 5-6; 1932a : 408) argued that Velásquez must have purchased birds from other parts of Guatemala because his collection included *Hylophilus decurtatus*, a species "restricted to the Caribbean rain forest". In actual fact, however, this vireo occurs widely on the Pacific slope of Guatemala (*vide* Hugh C. Land, *in litt.*), as well as elsewhere on the Pacific slope: foot of Volcán Tacaná, Chiapas, personally collected; near Mapastepec, Chiapas (my collection); El Salvador. Griscom's statement is thus disproved.

Though it has long been known that *E. h. gnatho* (Cabanis), 1860: Costa Rica, differs from more northern Caribbean females in more extensively yellowish underparts, nobody seems to have noticed that similar tendencies extend all along the Pacific slope to Chiapas. Virtually all Pacific females have the throat and chest largely or wholly yellow, not broadly and continuously pale grey medially as in Caribbean females; likewise the latter's grey collar (behind the auriculars) is obsolete in most or all Pacific females. True, 3 ♀ 1 ♂ juv. from 8-24 km. south of Cuilapa, Santa Rosa, south-eastern Guatemala (HCL) do seem intermediate; but no Pacific female examined agrees with the well-known Caribbean female described by Ridgway (1902), who probably never saw one from the Pacific slope. Caribbean birds also vary among themselves, in colour tones (not pattern); three races may be distinguished (CM, GMS, HCL, LSU, MICH, RTM, US, WF, YU):

Euphonia hirundinacea caribbaea subsp. nov.

Description: The widespread race commonly described as the nominate race (but see above). Back in unworn ♀ not much yellower than Roman Green or Yellowish Olive. ♂ ad. deeper, more tawny yellow on forehead and underparts than ♂♂ from farther north-west.

Distribution: Caribbean slope (excluding Yucatán Peninsula) from southern Veracruz (Catemaco region, and apparently Fortín de las Flores, near Orizaba) to at least Honduras.

Types: Original nos. 6613 and 6618; ♀, imm. ♀; 38 km. north of Matías Romero, Oaxaca (=Monte Bello, north of Palomares), 22nd January, 1963; prepared by Laura Guzmán G. (6618 collected by Robert W. Dickerman). Fat. Skull of 6613 ossified, 6618 with "windows".

Measurements of types: Length —, 120; extent 210, 211; wing 61.2, 57.8; tail 36, 33.3 mm. Weight 17, 16.7 grammes.

Material examined: Large series, chiefly from Catemaco area, Veracruz.

Remarks: ♂♂ ads. from Veracruz usually have the wing 61 mm. or more, while Honduras ♂♂ rarely reach that figure; but some overlap occurs.

Euphonia hirundinacea russelli subsp. nov.

Description: Very similar to Honduras specimens of *caribbaea*, *supra*; but differs from this and *hirundinacea* in richer, more ochraceous (less pale or greenish) yellow sides and flanks of ♀, strongly approaching Lemon Yellow or Strontian Yellow (♀ *caribbaea* are not much more ochre-yellow than Pyrite Yellow, being at most half-way towards Lemon Chrome). ♀♀ also have a definitely yellowish chin, a bright yellow crissum, and usually (in adults) a definite large white patch (small or absent in 90 per cent of ♀ *caribbaea*) on the inner web of the outer rectrix. Dorsally they are darker, more bluish-green, with a bluer occiput producing a contrast (between the eyes) with the forehead, supraloral, and supraocular areas; back darker than Yellowish Olive, often approaching Krönberg's Green.

♂ ad. averages deeper, more reddish-purple in the reflections on the back than *caribbaea*.

Distribution: Eastern part (at least) of the Yucatán Peninsula.

Type: Original no. 8516 ♀; 2 km. NE. of Felipe Carrillo Puerto, Quintana Roo, México, 30th January, 1965. Prepared by Laura Guzmán G. Ovary well developed but immature in appearance; skull ossified; moderately fat.

Measurement of type: Length 117, extent 205, wing 58, tail 33 mm. Weight 12.7 grammes.

Material examined: Small series of both ♀♀ and ♂♂ in definitive plumage (no green-backed first basic plumaged ♂♂) from nearly the whole of Quintana Roo and parts of British Honduras.

Remarks: This race may appropriately be dedicated to Dr. Stephen M. Russell, who has given us such a helpful account of the birds of British Honduras.

Euphonia hirundinacea suttoni subsp. nov.

Description: Very similar to *E. h. caribbaea*, *supra*: but in unworn ♀ and green-backed ♂ (first basic plumage, part) yellowest, palest green on back and rump, as well as paler, duller yellow below; back of ♀ near dark Yellowish Citrine or yellowish Serpentine Green. Reflections from black back of ad. ♂ paler bluish.

Distribution: Northern end of the range of the species in southern Tamaulipas, eastern San Luis Potosí, north-eastern Puebla (east of Huauchinango), and northern Veracruz south to Tuxpan and Tlapacoyan (intergrading, apparently, in the Huatusco area).

Types: In collection of George Miksch Sutton ♀♀; Río Sabinas near Gómez Farías, south-western Tamaulipas, 1st March (1938, 1949); collected by G. M. Sutton (GMS 8093) and W. B. Heed (PSM 46).

Measurements of types: Wing 58.5, 61; tail 34, 35 mm.

Material examined: Small but adequate series of all three plumages.

Remarks: I take pleasure in dedicating this handsome bird to Dr. George Miksch Sutton, whose boundless enthusiasm and energy sparked the recent renewal of interest in the avifauna of north-eastern México.

Occasional winter birds from north-east of Catemaco, Veracruz, are

near *suttoni*. I do not know whether this indicates some migration or simply intergradation.

Piranga bidentata alvarezii subsp. nov.

Description: (AMNH, KANU, LA, LDY, MIN, RTM, WF) ♂ ad. closest to *P. b. sanguinolenta* Lafresnaye, 1839: México = probably Veracruz, but still deeper red on head, breast and belly; anterior wing-bar also richer, extensively pink (or orangeish). ♀ imm. very dull, less green or yellow than more northern ♀♀ seen (which however may be adults).

Distribution: The type region, and possibly central and northern Chiapas.

Types: Original nos., 8062, 8073, and 8192 ad. ♂♂; km. 183 (cf. *Micrastur*), 4 (2) and 12th December, 1964; Juan Nava S. (8073 prepared by Santos Farfán B.; 8192 collected by W. J. Schaldach, Jr.).

Measurements of types: Length 216, 215±, 206; extent 312, 306, 305; wing 98, 96.1, 100.6; tail 81, 80.5, 83.4 mm.

Material examined: 5 ad. ♂ (but 1 = migrant?) 2 imm. ♂ 2 imm. ♀ from type locality and near San Gabriel Mixtepec; also series from northern Chiapas and 2 ♂, south-easternmost Oaxaca, most of which were not directly compared to the types.

Remarks: I name this lovely tanager for Miguel Alvarez del Toro, in recognition of the value of his work on the animals of Chiapas and their conservation, and in appreciation of his help during my own visits there. I have seen no material of this species from central or northern Oaxaca.

Piranga flava intensa subsp. nov.

Description: (LDY, RTM) Near *P. f. hepatica* Swainson, 1827: Real del Monte, Hidalgo, and *P. f. dextra* Bangs, 1907: Jalapa, Veracruz, and synonyms *oreophasma* Oberholser and *zimmeri* van Rossem (see Sutton and Phillips, 1942); but deeper, richer below, especially the ♀; throat of ad. ♀ near Light Cadmium. Back deep and dull (grey) in ad. ♂ and imm. ♀, but edgings of primaries and tail, and upper tail-coverts, deep and rich.

Distribution: Mountains of south-western Oaxaca (no material recently seen from central or northern Oaxaca); possibly also parts of Chiapas, but the series is small and variable.

Types: Original nos. 7723, 7765, and 7776, ad. ♂ (2), imm. ♀; vicinity of San Miguel Suchixtepec (above Río Molino), municipio de Miahuatlán, Oaxaca, 12 and (2) 13th November, 1964; 7765 collected and prepared by Juan Nava S.; rest prepared by Santos Farfán B. (7776 collected by W. J. Schaldach, Jr.).

Measurements of types: Length 211 [+?], 208, 208; extent 329 [+?], 313 (—?), 308; wing 100.5, 99, 93.5; tail 80.3, 80, 76.7 mm.

Material examined: 4 ♂ ad. 2 ♀ ad. 1 ♂ imm. 1 ♀ imm., from type locality north nearly to Miahuatlán and west to above (south of) Juchatengo.

Piranga rubra ochracea subsp. nov.

Description: A large, big-billed race like *P. r. cooperi* Ridgway, 1869: Los Pinos, New Mexico, but first basic (winter) plumage darker and duller, with very little yellow. Breast, rump, and especially flanks suffused with greyish Ochraceous-Buff. Back and rump also dull (grey-tinged) and dark, though paler than all but the palest *P. r. rubra* (Linné), 1758: South

Carolina (for example LSU 4286) and duller, less green (or brown). Wing-coverts and top and sides of head more greyish-brown (less olive-green). Edgings of rectrices average duller (greyer). Ad. ♀♀ show similar trends, but are less constant unless some October ♀♀ from the type valley are actually migrant *cooperi*. Ad. ♂♂ in fresh fall plumage are slightly purer (more purplish, less orangeish) red than *cooperi*; ventrally they are Begonia Rose x Spectrum Red (not Rose Dorée x Scarlet-Red); they are also a bit darker above, at least on crown and rump; but these differences are slight, and ad. ♂♂ of these two races are probably indistinguishable after November.

Distribution: Known to breed only in the central part of the Big Sandy Valley, Mohave County, Arizona (type locality south to at least Wikieup). Winters in western México (Sinaloa to Colima).

Types: Original nos. 2175 and 2178-79 ♂♂♀♀ (all imm.); Trout Creek just above its mouth, near Cane Springs, lat. 34° 57' N. long. 113° 37' W., western Arizona, 20th August, 1950. Little fat.

Measurements of types: Length 205.5, 210, 215.5; wing 94.3, 97.9, 97.1; tail 75, 80.5, 83.2; bill 15.5, 14.6, 14.7 mm. Weight 34.3, 33.5, 32.6 grammes.

Material examined: Also (from type valley) 5 ad. ♂, 5 ad. ♀, 3 imm.

Remarks: (AMNH, CAS, CU, LA, LDY, LSU, RTM, US, WF, University of Arizona, and private collections of Gale Monson, L. L. Hargrave, and L. M. Huey, and the R. Roy Johnson—James M. Simpson—James R. Werner Collection). Foxing is slight in this tanager, but individual and seasonal variations are impressive. Also, adult ♀♀ and, to a lesser degree, immature (first basic) ♂♂ are brighter, more yellowish than immature ♀♀; but there is either much mis-sexing or some overlap. Some *rubra* (cf. US 146586, Venezuela) strongly approach *cooperi*. ♀♀ possibly referable to *ochracea* as migrants or wanderers are from the nearby Colorado River, 2nd September, 1902 (Yuma, Arizona; Ariz. State Museum 1281) and 14th August, 1952 (southern tip of Nevada); definite migrant ♀♀ are from Tucson (16th April, 1938 and 31st July 1953—latter in the city where none nest).

Adult ♂♂ from the mouth of the Big Sandy River (Alamo crossing) and Burro Creek, south-eastern Mohave County, seem to be *cooperi* or intermediate; no ♀♀ or immatures are available from these points.

Chlorospingus ophthalmicus persimilis subsp. nov.

Description: (MIN, RTM) closely similar to *C. o. albifrons* Salvin and Godman, 1889: Omiltemi, Guerrero, but slightly darker brown on forehead, crown, nape, and sides of neck; back and rump deeper green, less yellowish; throat and especially malar area deeper, tawnier (less buffy); and chest slightly deeper, duller ochre.

Types: Original nos. 7817 and 7820-21 imm. ♂ (2), imm. ♀; Río Guajolote, 2,000 metres altitude, south-west of San Miguel Suchixtepec, municipio de Miahuatlán, southern Oaxaca, 15th November, 1964; collected by Juan Nava S. and (2) Benjamín Martínez Cruz; prepared by Santos Farfán B.

Measurements of types: Length 160, 161, 157; extent 223, 230, 216; wing 69, 70.3, 66; tail 63, —, 60.5 mm.

Remarks: This is the tawniest-throated race of the species. Besides the types, I have a good series from km. 183; these are generally intermediate, but the head and neck are a trifle warmer, tawnier brown than either *persimilis* or *albifrons*. The only race previously reported from Oaxaca is the very different *ophthalmicus* (Du Bus).

Atlapetes brunnei-nucha parkesi subsp. nov.

Description: (CAS, CU, RTM) similar to *A. b. brunnei-nucha* (Lafresnaye), 1839: México [=Xalapa, Veracruz (Parkes, 1954)], but darker throughout; flanks less bright green; bend of wing deeper, more chrome yellow. (Tail of adults usually tinged with deep bay or auburn.)

Types: Moore Laboratory of Zoology nos. 33154 and 58, 33136, ♂♂ (testes large); La Gloria, 900 metres alt., 16 km. south-west of Presidio, southern Veracruz, 2nd, 3rd and 15th July, 1942. Collected by C. C. Lamb (original nos. 6132, 6151, and 6269).

Measurements of types: Wing 78.7, 81.8, 77.8 mm.; tail 77.2, 80.5, 79.5 mm.

Material examined: 6 ad. 1 imm. 3 juv. from type locality; 1 ad. from [above] Presidio.

Remarks: This race is dedicated to Dr. Kenneth C. Parkes, whose careful studies exploded the myth that this finch ranges from México to South America without geographic variation. The dark colour of the crown in birds from southern Veracruz had already been commented on; but Parkes considered one of the two specimens available to him to be a variant, and assigned the other to the nominate race. But the larger series now at hand (RTM) is consistently dark throughout, and adds another brown-tailed population to that of eastern Panamá (Parkes, 1954: 136).

Birds labelled as from extreme northern Chiapas (Tumbalá, RTM) are still darker below than *parkesi*, but are pale-crowned. The range of *brunnei-nucha* extends south at least to San Marcos de León, about 32 km. south of Xalapa (RTM).

Pipilo erythrophthalmus sympatricus subsp. nov.

Description: Closely similar to *P. e. torquatus* Du Bus, 1847: México [=a few km. north of Las Vigas, Veracruz; see Phillips, 1962a], =*P. e. ocai* (Lawrence), 1865: "Jalapa", Veracruz [=Las Vigas; see Sibley, 1950: 144]; but deeper grey on sides of chest, slightly more reddish-brown on nape and back, and especially darker on flanks and darker, more sooty-brown, on lower back and rump. White on mid-line of forehead more restricted.

Types: Original nos. 7818-19 ♀ [imm.?] ♀ ad.; Río Guajolote, 2,000 m. (see *Chlorospingus*), southern Oaxaca, 15th November, 1964; collected by Juan Nava S. and Benjamín Martínez Cruz; prepared by Santos Farfán B.

Measurements of types: Length 233, 240; extent 278(±), 287; wing 81.5, 84; tail 95.5 [+?], 101.5 mm.

Material examined: Also 7 from Río Molino, nearby.

Remarks: (CU, RTM) 36 fall specimens from Guerrero, plus information kindly furnished by C. J. O. Harrison of the British Museum (Natural History), show that *Pipilo torquatus brunnescens* van Rossem and *P. t.*

guerrerensis van Rossem, 1938, are synonyms based on wear and fading. In fact, the tendencies visible are in the opposite direction, thus according with Sibley's (1950:146-147) diagnoses; but overlap is wide. Van Rossem (1940) had previously conceded the doubtful separability of "*ocai*" and "*brunnescens*". Besides the above variations, the sexes differ: ♀♀ are darker on the flanks, and usually more rufous on the crissum, than ♂♂.

The name refers to the widespread overlap of the race with another which, in my opinion, is inseparable from *P. e. maculatus* Swainson. They react as full species here (where no towhees at all are mapped in any of Sibley's various papers). I find wide individual variation and, despite the geographic gaps between, cannot separate either *P. e. oaxacae* Sibley, 1950, or *P. maculatus chiapensis* van Rossem, 1938, from *maculatus*. (I have no specimens to assess *P. m. repetens* Griscom, 1930.)

Melozone kieneri obscurior subsp. nov.

Description: Like *M. k. rubricatum* (Cabanis), 1851: Real Arriba, western part of Edo. de México, in the restriction of the rusty crown, which does not descend behind the auriculars, and the slender bill; but crown deeper in hue or colour tone, near Argus Brown (in depth or darkness near Amber Brown, like darker specimens elsewhere); flanks and sides darker, the "shoulder" Dark Olive-Grey; femoral tufts deeper and richer than in other races (but equalled by specimens from Guerrero and south-western Puebla); bill longer, 16 mm. from base.

Type: Original no. 6747 ♂; near crossroads in juniper—lava association, 1740 metres alt., ca. lat. 16° 28' N. long. 97° 2' W., south-west of Sola de Vega, south-western Oaxaca, 22nd May, 1963. Singing; breeding condition; very little fat.

Measurements of type: (Rather worn): length 182, extent 254(±) mm., wing 80 mm., tail 72 mm. Weight 36.4 grammes.

Remarks: (LDY, MIN, RTM) Strenuous and repeated efforts secured only the one specimen, which is also notably black on the subocular area, slaty-backed, and grey (less olive-tinged) on the auriculars and rump; but foxing and wear may be involved here. The specimen closes somewhat the gap between the known ranges of the *kieneri* and *biarcuatum* groups; it does not approach the latter in characters, however.

Spizella passerina repetens subsp. nov.

Description: Surprisingly like the geographically remote *S. p. arizonae* Coues, 1872: Fort Whipple (=Prescott), Arizona; but darker, more brownish (less greyish) on sides of head (auriculars, superciliary stripe) than *arizonae* or than *S. p. atremaea* Moore, 1937: Los Frailes, (south-western) Chihuahua. Averages slightly darker than *arizonae* throughout the upperparts, and darker and browner on the chest, sides, and flanks. But distinctly paler, duller above, with less rusty colour and less contrast on the back, than *atremaea* or any other dark race. Feathers of back with only two colours distally: black near shaft and plain dull brown (or buffy brown) laterally.

Distribution: Mountains and arid interior highlands (Valley of Oaxaca) of most of Oaxaca (except the north, extreme north-west, and extreme south-east?); also in Guerrero, in less typical form.

Types: Original nos. 7757-8 ♀♀ imms.; Río Molino, southern Oaxaca, 13th November, 1964; prepared by Juan Nava S. and Santos Farfán B.

Measurements of types: Length (both) 143 [+?]; extent 216 [+?], 211 [+?]; wing 68.2, 66; tail 61, 57 [+? mostly missing] mm.

Material examined: Four from Guerrero; series from Oaxaca, north-west as far as Tamazulapan.

Remarks: (CAS, CM, LDY, LSU, MIN, RTM, WF). By this separation the winter limits of true *arizonae* become somewhat uncertain. Common in the Distrito Federal (R. W. Dickerman), it must surely reach Morelos; but the only report there (Miller *et al.*, "1957") seems to be based on RTM 44614, a pale sparrow marked "*arizonae* AHM" by Miller. This specimen I find to be actually *S. pallida*. I have not seen the old Guichicovi, Oaxaca, "*arizonae*", but the Tamazulapan bird is *repetens*. The latter race is surrounded on all sides (except of course the south) by darker, more rufous races, principally

Spizella passerina comparanda subsp. nov.

Description: Decidedly darker than the surrounding races, yet paler in all plumages (including the juvenal) than *S. p. mexicana* Nelson, 1899: San Cristóbal [=Ciudad Las Casas], Chiapas. Most like *S. p. passerina* (Bechstein), 1798: [eastern] Canada, but slightly larger with a heavier bill, more swollen at the base, and with browner (less prominent) wing-bars. Among nearby races closest to *atremaea*, but averages darker above (rump and edgings of tertials; crown to a lesser extent); back with more extensive chestnut, less buff; lesser wing-coverts and flanks slightly darker; and bill somewhat deeper.

Distribution: Mountains of trans-Volcanic belt from Nayarit east to Veracruz, north-eastern Puebla, and eastern San Luis Potosí (east of Ciudad del Maiz).

Types: Original No. 4608 and L. D. Yaeger 513 ♀♀ imms.; 5 km. south-east of La Galinda, = 39 km. south-east of Tepic, Nayarit, 24th October, 1957.

Measurements of types: Length 135, 140; extent 208, 210; wing 63, 67; tail 53, 58 mm.

Material examined: Series, mainly from Nayarit and Michoacán.

Remarks: This is *mexicana* auct., but unfortunately Nelson chose a type from south-east of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. Chiapas birds show well the darkness mentioned in Nelson's description; indeed in Ridgway's (1901) key they key out to *pinetorum*. Whether these two and *cicada* Dickey and van Rossem, 1928: San José del Sacare, Chalatenango, El Salvador, are really distinct I do not know.

Occasional variants of *comparanda* strongly approach other races. The amount of black on the forehead, one of Ridgway's characters, does not seem to me to be very valuable taxonomically.

Aimophila ruficeps extima subsp. nov.

Description: Most similar to *A. r. boucardi* (P. Selater), 1867: "La Puebla", but still paler, duller, greyer brown above than types of that race. Crown Chestnut Brown somewhat approaching Russet (not Chestnut Brown x Mars Brown as in *boucardi*). Also a bit smaller. Much greyer above than the geographically closer *A. r. australis* (Nelson), 1897: "City of Oaxaca" [=Cerro San Felipe (?)], Oaxaca.

Distribution: Mountains of southern Oaxaca from the type locality west to at least the Miahuatlán area.

Type: Original no. 5708 ♀ imm.; 2 km. north-west of Portillo Nejapa (ca. lat. 16° 34' N. long. 95°; 57' W.), = 106 km. by road west-north-west of Tehuantepec, Oaxaca, 19th December, 1960. Little fat.

Measurements of type: Length 155; wing (completing moult of primaries) 57.7; tail 60.2 mm. Weight 19.5 (±) grammes.

Material examined: 1 ♀ 1 ♀ imm., type area; 1 ♀, near Totolapa; 3 ♂ 2 ♀, 13 km. south of Miahuatlán.

Remarks: (AMNH, CU, KANU, LA, LSU, MIN, RSC, RTM, US, WF; also a few specimens from the University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and the private collections of L. L. Hargrave, Gale Monson, and J. A. Munro). This, not true *australis*, is the form described by Ridgway (1901) as being like *scottii*. Measurements of my series are: 3 ♂, length 157–165 [+], extent — — 211 [+], wing 62.5 [+?] – 64.5, tail 64–68.2 [+; worn] mm.; 3 ♀, length 155–156, extent 199 (—); wing 57.7–60.5 [+? still moulting]; tail 60.2, 63 [+ (?)] mm.

As in many *Aimophilae*, most museum specimens of *ruficeps* are badly worn, and apparently often soiled. Even with fresh plumages, hazards are foxing and strange, almost haphazard geographic variations. The present case beautifully illustrates this complex, illogical dispersal of rusty- and grey-backed populations. Nelson (1897) named *australis* from a bird taken in the northern part of the Valley of Oaxaca [in the mountains] with only a "small amount" of grey in the back. Four specimens taken by me north of the Valley on 23rd November, 1958 agree with this description, being practically solid chestnut-rufous above, including the rump. Thus they bear little resemblance either to *extima*, on the south side of the same valley, or to fresh specimens from north-western Oaxaca (Tamazulapan and Huajuapán de León)! Yet they are extremely similar to birds from far-off Nayarit! Such a weird pattern obviously needs much fresh, authentic material from throughout the range for a proper appraisal.

Aimophila ruficeps pallidissima subsp. nov.

Description: A large race with extremely grey upperparts. Back strongly contrasted to crown, the feathers almost wholly pale, cold, clear grey (near Olive-Grey) with even the shaft-streaks devoid of rusty tones (Natal Brown approaching Fuscous). This greyness is approached by some *A. r. tenuirostris* Burleigh and Lowery, 1939: Guadalupe Mountains . . . Texas; but these (from the Davis Mountains, Texas) have the crown paler, near Russet (not approaching Bay). Also pale and dull ventrally, with very little tinge of pale Cinnamon-Buff on the median underparts (chest to crissum).

Types: Moore Zoological Laboratory nos. 38727, 26, and 34 ♂♂♀ (all well along in adult prebasic moult); Cuesta Blanca, 19 km. west of Saltillo, Coahuila, 23 and (2) 26th September, 1943; collected by C. C. Lamb (field nos. 9183, 9235–6).

Measurements of types: Wing 65.3 [+], 66, 62.3 [+; still in moult]; tail 74 [+? half missing], 73.5, 71.5 mm.

Material examined: Eleven from type locality and 80 km. south of Monclova, Coahuila (RTM); 1 ♂ imm., near Aramberri, southern Nuevo León (KANU) seems similar but perhaps smaller.

Remarks: Apparently this race is restricted to the arid interior; birds from southern Tamaulipas and "Nuevo León", according to Griscom (1934), are "dark above . . . much darker than *scottii*"; and some, at least, are smaller as well (Martin *et al.*, 1954). To the west, *simulans* van Rossem is decidedly smaller and deeper chestnut above than this or any race of the interior United States or adjacent México, despite my ill-advised doubts (in Phillips *et al.*, 1964).

Aimophila rufescens (Swainson), 1827

In the most recent review, by A. H. Miller (in Miller *et al.*, "1957"), the Mexican races are reduced to three, south and east of north-western Durango; *pallida*, [*sinaloa*], *subvespera*, and *cinerea* are all synonymized with *rufescens*, whose range thus includes the whole Pacific slope from southern Sinaloa, "Guanajuato", and southern Puebla to south-western Chiapas.

When only useful specimens, which retain some colour values, are compared, however, quite a different picture emerges. Four races are recognizable here, and two more in the area Miller assigned to *pyrgitoides*. Also, some Pacific birds (in Oaxaca) are just as dark as Caribbean specimens; and another nomenclatural complication results from the merger of *Amphispiza* Coues with *Aimophila* (Phillips *et al.*, 1964).

Although Ridgway himself (1901: 231) expressed his dissatisfaction with his generic arrangement of these sparrows, this was followed blindly by all authors until 1964. Prior to 1901, *Amphispiza* had usually been separated on colour; Ridgway transferred several of its species to *Aimophila*, commenting that "Considerable doubt attaches to the position of '*Zonotrichia*' *quinquestriata*", which "so strongly resembles *A*[*mphispiza*] *bilineata* that it seems almost unreasonable to place it in a different genus, but the wing-formula certainly agrees much better with that of *Aimophila*, the outermost (ninth) primary being shorter than the first, instead of equal to or longer than the third. Should it be finally decided to place this species in *Amphispiza*, the generic characters . . . would of course have to be modified . . ."

Actually, the more rounded-winged species are, as expected, those performing short or no migrations; the pointed-winged species have at least some (northern) populations that migrate for considerable distances. Ridgway himself united *Peucaea*, "ninth primary never shorter than third . . .", with *Aimophila*. The only other important difference supposed to separate these genera is the relative length of wing and tail. This proportion varies geographically in *Amphispiza bilineata* (van Rossem, 1945a) and *Aimophila botterii* (Phillips, 1943), and individually in *A. sumichrasti*. Thus I perceive no constant structural differences between *Aimophila*, "*Peucaea*", and "*Amphispiza*", and propose

Aimophila rufescens brodkorbi nomen nov.

Aimophila rufescens cinerea Brodkorb, 1940 (Auk 57: 549; "Cerro de la Gineta", [south-western] Chiapas); *nec Amphispiza belli cinerea* Townsend, 1890 (Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 13: 136).

Description: A large pale race. Crown Chestnut or Burnt Siena, and thus very similar to (though a bit brighter, more reddish than) *A. r. pallida* Nelson and Palmer, 1894: Etzatlán, Jalisco; but larger, with longer

bill and tail. Culmen of ♂, from base, *ca.* 19–20 mm. (vs. 18.3–19); wing over 78 (♀ 73), whereas *pallida* rarely exceeds 79 (♀ 74). Crissum slightly paler.

Distribution: Mountains near the Pacific Ocean in extreme south-western Chiapas (and south-eastern Oaxaca?).

Remarks: (CAS, LDY, LSU, MIN, RTM, US, WF; also Texas A. & M. University, and a pair from University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology). The crown of *rufescens*, with which both these races were synonymized by A. H. Miller, is distinctly darker (Bay) in relatively recent, unworn specimens. Miller was apparently correct, however, in synonymizing *A. r. subvespera* Griscom, 1934: "Chilpancingo", Guerrero.

Aimophila rufescens newmani subsp. nov.

Description: Crown dark Liver Brown, as in *A. r. pyrgitoïdes* (Lafresnaye), 1839: México = Xalapa, Veracruz, but more strongly contrasted to the pale reddish (Verona Brown x Russet) upper back. Chest chiefly Pinkish Buff, and sides and flanks also richer, buffier (and paler) than *pyrgitoïdes*.

Distribution: North-eastern part of the species' range.

Types: Moore Zoological Laboratory nos. 38560 and 38584 ♂♂; 25 km. by road east of Ciudad del Maiz, San Luis Potosí, 1st and 3rd October, 1943; collected by C. C. Lamb (field nos. 9295, 9323).

Measurements of types: Wing 74.7, 73.7; tail 79 [+; worn], — mm.

Material examined: Four from type locality, and three from Scapa, near Huauchinango, north-eastern Puebla.

Remarks: This race is dedicated to Robert J. Newman, co-worker with George H. Lowery, Jr., on the *ornis* of San Luis Potosí and expert extraordinary on bird migration.

Aimophila rufescens disjuncta subsp. nov.

Description: A dark race, much like a slightly reddened *pyrgitoïdes* though with somewhat darker, duller flanks; differs from all dark races seen in brighter anterior underparts (which are *not* soiled): chest tinged with deep Pinkish Buff, somewhat approaching Cinnamon-Buff; malar stripe also somewhat deeper and warmer.

Distribution: First range of oak and pine—oak clad mountains facing the Pacific Ocean in south-western Oaxaca and Guerrero.

Types: Original nos. 7104, 7158, and 7213 ad. ♀ [ad.] ♀ ad. ♂; San Gabriel Mixtepec, Oaxaca, 25th and 29th November and 2nd December, 1963; collected by Juan Nava S., and 7158 prepared by him (rest by Santos Farfán B.).

Measurements of types: Length —, 192 [+?], 198 [+]; wing ?? (all worn, moulting); tail —, 73.2, 75 [+ (?); still growing] mm.

Material examined: Eleven specimens.

Remarks: Birds from farther north (Sola de Vega and ridge south-west), east (near Portillo Nejapa), and west (Chilpancingo area, Guerrero) are all paler and duller. Thus the dark *disjuncta* is virtually surrounded by paler populations.

A. r. pyrgitoïdes has the chest essentially greyish, or more or less tinged with Pinkish Buff (but not a darker hue).

Aimophila carpalis distinguenda subsp. nov.

Description: (RTM) in colour closely similar to *A. c. carpalis* (Coues), 1873: [near] Tucson, Arizona, though the back is slightly browner, less greyish, in alternate plumage. Size decidedly smaller, about as in *A. c. cohaerens* Moore, 1946: Elota, southern Sinaloa; differs from the latter in paler rump, chest, and (to some degree) flanks, and lacks the rufous cast to back and rump that is usual in *cohaerens*.

Distribution: Northern Sinaloa and southern Sonora, northward probably (no specimens seen) to about 27° 40' N. latitude.

Type: Moore Zoological Laboratory no. 11626 [adult?] ♂; Los Leones, northern Sinaloa, 30th March 1934; collected by J. T. Wright.

Measurements of type: Wing 61.8; tail 65.7 mm.

Remarks: This is *A. c. bangsi* Moore, 1932 (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. 45:232; Guirocoba, [southeastern] Sonora), *nec Amphisipiza bilineata bangsi* Grinnell, 1927 (Auk 44:71). As long as the races were based on size alone, it was unimportant that Moore's Mexican birds are nearly all in worn, faded plumage. His type, likewise, is in the midst of the prealternate moult (*vide* van Rossem, 1945b). Now that colour is known to be important, however, it seems best to give a new, corrected description and designate as type Moore's *only* specimen still in unworn basic plumage, retaining colour values, rather than simply to rename *bangsi*.

Unfortunately, Moore's (1946) several mistakes give a misleading picture of this interesting bird. To those I once (1946) mentioned should be added his statements that, of *cohaerens*, "large series is so uniform . . . dark streaks of back wider and more prominent . . . In postnuptial plumage . . . chestnut of pileum darker; wing-tip much shorter. Compared with . . . *carpalis*, *cohaerens* shows the same differences, but to much greater degree; in addition . . . wing-tip fifty per cent smaller and wing much more rounded."

I, however, find *cohaerens* more variable and less distinctive. Variation in width of the dark streaks seems to me more individual than geographic. A darker pileum, if present "in postnuptial plumage" [*i.e.* worn basic or winter plumage?], would presumably reflect less fading in a greener, less harsh environment. Even in Arizona, an occasional fall immature (original nos. 402, 1185) is just as dark chestnut on the crown as my pair of *cohaerens* (immatures taken 18th January 1955). The latter's "much more rounded wing" escapes me entirely; in both races primaries 5 and 6 are longest, with 8, 7, and 4 nearly as long; while the 9th (outer) primary tends to be longer than the first in ♂♂, shorter in ♀♀. The "much shorter" wing-tip is due simply to proper preparation of the series of *cohaerens* by C. C. Lamb; the "*bangsi*" were skinned by another collector, who presumably "stripped" the secondaries crudely from the ulna. In my own series, personally prepared, the two races are identical in this feature.

"Paler mandibles and tarsi", said by Moore (p. 123) to distinguish his southern races, seem to me rather the marks of mature birds. In fact, my pair of *cohaerens* have drab tarsi, *darker* than any *carpalis* at hand except for those that are still younger, judging by dates, plumages, and wholly unossified skulls. (The *cohaerens* were ossified laterally and anteriorly.) In bill colour I see nothing of note, in full-grown birds.